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THE HEALTH
OF THE
CITY OF TRURO
1958



Medical Officer of Health :

V. E. WHITMAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

City Public Health Inspector :

F. MARSH, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., D.P.A.

CITY OF TRURO

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1958

The MAYOR OF TRURO (Councillor T. W. R. Christophers)

Chairman : Councillor R. J. Williams

Vice-Chairman : Councillor T. W. R. Christophers

Aldermen:

A. A. Behenna, J. B. Lodge, F. Richards.

Councillors:

J. R. Behenna, W. J. Bowden, E. H. Broad, E. A. Brown,
Mrs. E. Cornish, S. J. Sunley, H. J. P. Teague.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health :

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Official Address—6, Lemon Street, Truro.

Telephone No. Truro 2202.

City Public Health Inspector :

F. Marsh, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., D.P.A.

Official Address—Municipal Buildings, Truro.

Telephone No. Truro 3475.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

H. Chadderton, M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Cornish and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitation of the City of Truro during 1958.

The year was a healthy one. Except for 106 cases of measles there was no epidemic disease. The feature of the year so far as I was concerned was the vaccination of large numbers of children, and others, against poliomyelitis. The net result of our work, about two thirds of the children protected by at least 2 doses of vaccine, may not appear spectacular but this meant an enormous amount of work which could not have been achieved without the wholehearted co-operation of the two firms of general practitioners in the city and a great deal of extra effort on the part of my staff. A lot of work remains to be done and a considerable backlog of other work, especially immunisation against diphtheria, has accumulated, but the position now achieved is at least as good as the national average and probably a great deal better. We have been so busy doing the vaccination that sorting of records and production of accurate statistics has not been possible.

Mr. Marsh's report must be read in detail. I feel that all who have been associated with the Health Committee can feel proud of the achievements of his department during the year.

I am glad once more to have the opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year and to Mr. Marsh and his staff for their loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. WHITMAN,

Medical Officer of Health,
City of Truro.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of City (acres)	...	...	...	2,450	
Population (mid 1958)	...	...	...	13,520	(13,540)
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,145	(4,162)
Rateable value	...	...	...	£200,794	(£212,013)
Product of penny rate	...	...	...	£733.14.1	(£826.15.2)
Number of houses built, or under construction since 1945	...	...	...	812	(760)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	...	...	...	373	(378)

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Males 94 (98)	Females 76 (79)	Total 170 (177)
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"	...	0.99 (0.99)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population—Truro	...	12. 4 (12. 9)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population—England and Wales	...	16. 4 (16. 1)

Still Births

Males 2 (2)	Females 3 (0)	Total 5 (2)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births—Truro	...	28. 6 (11. 2)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births—England and Wales	...	21. 6 (22. 4)

Deaths

Males 79 (83)	Females 91 (77)	Total 170 (160)
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor"	...	0.90 (0.92)
Death rate, per 1,000 population—Truro	...	11. 3 (11. 0)
Death rate, per 1,000 population—England and Wales	...	11. 7 (11. 5)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Males 2 (3)	Females 1 (0)	Total 3 (3)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births—Truro	...	17. 6 (17. 0)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births—England and Wales	...	22. 6 (23. 0)

Neo-Natal Deaths (i.e. deaths occurring within 28 days of birth)

Males 1 (2)	Females 1 (0)	Total 2 (2)
Illegitimate live births		
Males 1	Females 4	Total 5
Per cent of total live births	...	2. 9
Maternal Deaths	...	Nil

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

			1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	1	3	2	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	2	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	0	0	0	0	1	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	4	2	8	4	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	6	5	1	9	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	2	2	6	3	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	4	2	2	1	1	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	15	12	10	14	13	15
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	1	0	1	0	1	3
Diabetes	...	...	3	3	0	1	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	20	25	32	30	30	21
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	14	17	14	25	22	30
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	9	5	12	3	9	5
Other heart disease	...	...	24	24	39	27	23	33
Other circulatory disease	...	...	7	7	5	6	6	7
Influenza	...	...	0	1	0	5	3	0
Pneumonia	...	...	1	5	6	9	3	6
Bronchitis	...	...	8	3	3	6	5	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	0	2	3	1	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	3	1	3	4	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	2	0	0	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	2	3	1	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	0	3	1	2	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	1	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	...	...	2	1	1	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	22	14	25	23	16	15
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	0	1	1	3	1	2
All other accidents	...	...	6	5	1	8	3	4
Suicide	...	...	2	0	4	0	0	3
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
			160	141	190	181	160	170

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	M	F	Total
Under 1 year	2 (3)	1 (0)	3 (3)
1— 4 years	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
5—14 „	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
15—24 „	0 (0)	2 (1)	2 (1)
25—44 „	6 (4)	4 (2)	10 (6)
45—64 „	16(25)	10(16)	26(41)
65—74 „	29(24)	14(21)	43(45)
75 +	26(27)	60(36)	86(63)

PERINATAL MORTALITY, 1958

	Population mid 1958	Still Births	Live Births	Deaths within 7 days	Perinatal Mortality
Falmouth	16,570	3	243	2	20.3
Penryn	4,330	6	72	2	102.6
Truro City	13,520	5	170	2	40.0
Truro Rural	26,590	11	377	2	33.5
Health Area	61,010	25	862	8	37.2

Cornwall: Perinatal Mortality 1958, 36.8

England and Wales: Perinatal Mortality 1958, 35.1

75.9% (67.5%) of all deaths were of persons over 65 years of age. Over 50% of all deaths occurred over the age of 75 years. These figures dominate the vital statistics for the year. That there were 10 deaths more in 1958 than in 1957 is more than accounted for by the increase of deaths in the highest age group from 63 to 86. None of the figures in the analysis of causes of death seems to call for further investigation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

1. CLINICS

Child Welfare—Attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinic averaged 35 per session. The average for 1957 was 32.

Dental	Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Pre-School Children	School Children
Inspected	74 (87)	116(128)	2,898(4,605)
Required treatment	70 (86)	105(106)	2,399(2,537)
Persons treated	65 (83)	102(103)	1,224(1,830)
Attendances	223(308)	193(214)	3,285(4,138)

2. AMBULANCE SERVICE

Owing to reorganisation and regrouping of ambulances separate figures of work done by the ambulances in Truro are not available. It is quite definite however that all calls made upon the service have received prompt and efficient attention.

3. HOME HELP SERVICE

The establishment of Home Helps was 8(9). Help was given in their own homes to 13(20) maternity and 53(67) other cases during the year.

The calls on this service in Truro continue to decline. This, in my opinion, is due entirely to the fact that the majority of those in need of help either cannot, or will not, pay the amounts assessed.

4. AFTER-CARE GRANTS

No free grants of extra nourishment were made to tubercular patients during the year.

5. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Truro Public Health Laboratory examined and reported on 42 samples of ice cream and 84 samples of water during the year.

6. WATER SUPPLY

The Truro Water Company provided an ample supply of wholesome water to the City throughout the year. Samples were taken for bacteriological examination at frequent intervals, and all proved satisfactory.

7. HOME NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH VISITING

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
General cases nursed	322	355	821	956	261
General Nursing visits	9,695	12,679	9,451	10,348	7,551
Midwifery cases	109	125	127	99	104
Midwifery visits	1,958	2,839	3,329	2,789	2,378
Ante Natal visits	1,082	1,109	1,056	734	762
Health visits to children under 5 years of age	4,477	5,163	4,454	3,849	4,298
Visits to elderly people	7,600	7,866	6,541	6,137	4,075

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer, reports:—

Throughout the year the shortage of permanent district nurse/midwives in Truro continued. Due to the invaluable assistance of adjacent and part time colleagues and the outstanding loyalty of the only two permanent nurses, there was no serious disruption in the service and the work remained at much the same level.

There was a fall in the number of babies born at home but the number of ante-natal visits per case was higher than ever before. This is as it should be because early and frequent supervision in the ante-natal period prevents major disorders and can eliminate tragedies.

66 expectant mothers attended the weekly informal ante-natal classes at the St. George's Road, Infant Welfare Centre. Women booked for either hospital or home delivery came in roughly equal numbers.

No special chiropody service is available for the elderly in Truro. Both Health Visitors continue to be very concerned that in consequence many old people suffer.

The Health Visitors also report that a few of the elderly who live alone need assistance with their weekly bath. No particular skill is necessary for this very worth while service. The work may be done voluntarily or for a small payment and I would be delighted to know of anyone willing to help.

Much of the preparatory work for anti-poliomyelitis vaccination was done by the Health Visitors, this was in addition to their routine work with the annual mantoux and B.C.G. sessions for school leavers.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age Group		Acute-Pneumonia		Whooping Cough		Measles	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	3	2
1— 2	...	—	—	1	—	13	15
3— 4	...	—	—	—	—	8	11
5— 9	...	—	—	—	—	26	18
10—14	...	—	—	—	—	8	1
15—24	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	...	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—64	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
		2	—	1	—	58	48
Total		2		1		106	

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

By the end of 1958, 2,525 persons had received at least 2 doses of poliomyelitis vaccine and of these 376 had three doses. Details are as follows:—

Children under 15		15—25	Expectant Mothers	Others	Total
2 doses	3 doses	2 doses			
1,596	376	196	77	280	2,525

With the help of the general medical practitioners about 5,000 doses of poliomyelitis vaccine were given in Truro during the year. In September 1958 the Minister directed that:—

- third doses of vaccine should be offered to those who had already had 2 doses.
- the offer of vaccination should be extended to persons born in the years 1933—1942.

Vaccination was also to be made available to other small groups such as hospital staff and medical students but, most suprisingly, not to dentists and teaching taffs.

In order to reach as many as possible of the new group, letters were sent to all firms employing ten or more persons offering to vaccinate on the premises should the response be sufficient. In addition special evening and Saturday morning clinics were set up and advertised. The response from the firms was fair but attendances at the special clinics in Truro were very disappointing.

Diphtheria

There was no case of the disease during the year. 106(129) children under 5 years, and 2(8) between the ages of 5 years and 14 years, were given primary immunising doses. Of these 101(125) received the triple antigen which also affords protection against whooping cough and tetanus. 40(51) children already immunised were given booster doses.

It was estimated that on the 31st December, 1958 there were 681(699) children in Truro between the ages of one and five years. Of these 441(506) or 64.8%(72.4%) had been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

So much emphasis was laid on vaccination against poliomyelitis during the year that this fall was not unexpected. It is to be hoped, however, that we shall soon have protection rates against both diseases of at least 75%.

Smallpox

There were no smallpox cases in Truro in 1958. 79(86) children and 7(15) persons over 15 years of age were vaccinated, and 14(41) re-vaccinations were done.

Tuberculosis

Age Group Years	New cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Under 5	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	1	—	—
25—44	—	1	—	—
45—64	5	1	1	—
65+	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	6	3	1	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	9		1	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

There were no new cases of or deaths due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

The number of tubercular patients on the register at the 31st December, 1958 was 113(107) respiratory and 14(15) non-respiratory making a total of 127(122) cases. This gives an incidence of 9.4 (8.7) known cases per 1,000 of population.

By the end of 1958 the number of children who had been vaccinated against tuberculosis with B.C.G. had risen to 1,786 (1,622). Of these 374 (351) were contacts of known cases of the disease and 1,412(1,271) were school leavers, the parents of whom had accepted the offer of this protective procedure.

The number of Truro school children attending the Mass Radiography Unit during the Spring was 579. There were no significant cases discovered among these children.

Advantage was taken of the visit of this Unit to get a number of workers in shops, offices and factories X-rayed. Altogether there were 878 of these among whom 4 significant cases of disease were discovered, 2 of them requiring immediate treatment.

C I T Y O F T R U R O

CITY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1958

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for 1958. It is a pleasure to record, in this, my third annual report, a year of steady progress in all spheres of environmental health work. Despite the restrictions on capital expenditure early in the year the determination of the Public Health and Housing Committees to provide better conditions and services for the people of the City was shown in the continued rehousing of families from unfit houses, the abatement of overcrowding cases on Council estates, the acceptance of a tender to build new public conveniences at the Moorfield, the ordering of an improved refuse collection vehicle, the delivery and use of a new cesspool/gully emptier, the decision to obtain a machine for the disposal of refuse, and the making of a contract for the Highertown sewerage scheme.

The Council's first five year programme of dealing with unfit houses proceeds satisfactorily, and it is hoped that by the end of 1959 no fewer than 140 of the 228 houses listed for action will have been dealt with. In addition 34 individual houses have been subject to Closing or Demolition procedure in the past three years.

The continued co-operation of occupiers of food premises and the success of persuasion and education is shown by the 200 improvements carried out to premises in the year.

I appreciate the continued interest and support of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee. Valued co-operation was received from Dr. Whitman and other Chief Officers, and I desire to acknowledge the readily given assistance of my own staff.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK MARSH,

City Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(1) **Milk.** Thirty-nine licences to sell designated milk in the City area were issued. Three dairies are registered. There are seventeen distributors of tuberculin tested milk and twenty-two distributors of pasteurised milk.

Sixty-one samples of milk were taken during the year with the following results:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested Milk	26	—
Pasteurised Milk	33	2

Cornish clotted cream is sold extensively in the City in a wide variety of shops. Mostly the cream is in waxed cartons, properly protected, but it is not uncommon to find dishes and basins of cream in shop windows, totally unprotected, in the height of summer. Warnings have been issued about this practice.

(2) **Meat.** Slaughtering is carried out at one private slaughterhouse and three slaughtermen are licensed. The number of animals killed and inspected has remained at the level of 1957. Four hundred and twenty-seven visits were made to the slaughterhouse and 2,490 lbs. of diseased meat were condemned, 998 lbs. of this amount being affected by tuberculosis. The carcasses are all of a high quality and are supplied to two shops only, one in the City and the other at Newquay. Supplies to the remaining butchers' shops in the City come in from the surrounding areas.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1958

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	...	483	20	145	1,797	991
No. inspected	...	483	20	144	1,797	991
<hr/>						
All diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	3	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						
	...	98	4	6	90	42

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<hr/>						
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	18	—	1	—	54
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Cysticercosis	...	—	—	—	—	—
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(3) **Ice Cream.** Fifty-six registered premises retail ice cream and there is one manufactory in the City where the hot mix process is used. Forty-two samples were taken and were graded as follows:—Grade 1—29, Grade II—10, Grade III—1, Grade IV—2.

(4) **Other Foods.** One thousand two hundred and fifteen certificates were issued for the voluntary surrender of 4,386 lbs. of unsound food. Orange juice, Cornish pasties and canned hamburgers were amongst the other foods examined in twenty-one samples at the Public Health Laboratory.

(5) **Storage, Preparation and Distribution of Food.** Work continued during the year under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. In no case was it thought necessary to take Court action on contraventions of the Regulations and again the accent was on inspections, persuasion and education of food handlers. Two hundred and ninety-four inspections were made of the one hundred and ninety-one food premises and two hundred improvements were effected. Because of pressure of work on housing matters insufficient time can be given to such inspections, and the numbers fall below the desired minimum.

A pleasing feature of food work this year has been the large numbers of improvements effected by the Devenish Brewery Co. at their licensed premises within the City. There are still one or two blackspots amongst the City's licensed premises but it is hoped that improvements will be effected next year.

By the end of the year a start had been made on the inspection of kitchens at bed and breakfast houses. It would seem essential that where an authority permits advertisements regarding food and accommodation to appear in its official guide, that it should be able to say that the premises have been inspected by one

of its officers and comply with the appropriate laws and regulations. Ninety bed and breakfast houses are known in the City but there are many more which are not known.

Small improvements continued to be made at the kitchens of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary. Only a major reconstruction of the kitchens will give modern day standards and it is understood that such reconstruction has reached an advanced stage of planning. The reconstruction should receive the highest priority as soon as possible.

Seventy premises are registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955—13 for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pickled or preserved foods, 56 for the sale of ice cream, and one ice cream manufactory.

(6) **Number by Type of Food Premises.**

Grocers	... 52	Wholesale warehouses	... 3
Mixed	... 16	Fried Fish Shops	... 8
Confectioners	... 7	Wet Fish Shops	... 3
Sweets	... 12	Cafes and Snack Bars	... 10
Butchers	... 15	Bakehouses	... 1
School Canteens	... 11	Licensed Premises	... 26
Factory Canteens	... 2	Hotels	... 15
Chemists	... 7	Wines and Spirits	... 3

(7) **Investigation into the Cleanliness of Oysters.** During the year four hundred and fifty oysters in ninety samples of five were examined. Eleven samples were unsatisfactory. Samples of mussels and winkles were also unsatisfactory. Thirty-seven specific gravity and temperature readings were taken in the river and twenty-six such tests were made at a cleansing plant. This season, 1958/9, is the third in which the problem has been investigated.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(1) **Refuse Collection.** Refuse is collected by two full time vehicles supplemented on one day a week by a further vehicle. A special trade refuse collection is carried out on two mornings during the week. Eight full time men are supplemented by part time staff drawn from the labour pool. In August 1958 collections were being made from 4,316 dwellinghouses and 353 trade premises.

During the year the motor cart vehicle was taken out of service and was replaced by a proper load carrying vehicle. The Council also decided to replace the third refuse collection vehicle which has been in service for thirteen years and, recognising the necessity for cutting down on long hauls from new estates on the periphery of the City to the tip with light bulky refuse, ordered an 18 cu. yd. fore and aft dual tip vehicle capable of some compression of the refuse. This new vehicle will also allow all collectors to ride in the cab instead of riding on top of the vehicle body—a most undesirable and dangerous practice.

In April the Council stopped free collections of salvageable material from trade premises and made trade refuse charges. No economic market for waste paper could be found and although 16 tons of tins and 330 dozen bottles were sold during the year, the demand for these had ceased by the year end.

Nearly five hundred visits were made and hundreds of leaflets issued in an effort to persuade householders to use properly covered refuse containers. There is no doubt that unsatisfactory, uncovered containers are a danger to health and every effort will be made to stamp out breeding places for flies.

(2) **Refuse Disposal.** The main tip at Newham is supplemented by a small reserve tip at Boscawen Park which is used when tides prevent access to Newham. With the utilisation of the park area adjacent to the last two unfilled slipways the reserve tip has now a very limited life. Early in the year it was recognised that one man could not deal with 180 tons of refuse and trade waste each week and a second man was employed. Supplies of cover were again inadequate and insufficient cover leads to three difficulties; heavy rat infestations arise; fly breeding cannot be prevented; frequent outbreaks of fire occur. The modern conception of the disposal of refuse by tipping is the compaction of refuse and the daily sealing of this compacted mass so that flies and rats are eliminated, together with fire and smell nuisances. A bulldozer achieves compaction admirably but because of the local difficulties in the supply of covering material, it was felt that only a machine which could bulldoze the refuse, dig out cover, either of inert refuse of previous years or dried sewage sludge from the nearby works and load it into a lorry would do the job properly. It is pleasing to record that the City Council ordered such a machine early in 1959.

(3) **Street Cleansing.** The total mileage of streets swept is 30 and the frequency of cleansing is as follows:—

Daily	5 times weekly	3 times weekly	Twice weekly	Weekly
15%	1%	2%	11%	71%

Normal staff consists of seven orderlies equipped with street orderly carts working on a beat system. The Litter Act 1958 which came into operation in August, cannot be effective unless sufficient numbers of litter bins, properly positioned, are provided. There are now sixty-three litter bins in the City centre and the Council is making arrangements for the provision of a further twenty. More containers were provided instead of the unsightly sweeper's dumps and next year should see an end of these dumps. The Public Health Committee recommended that more litter receptacles be placed on the Council's car parks during the summer season and the Public Works Committee has arranged to do this in 1959.

(4) **Cesspool Emptying.** Delivery was taken during the year of a new 800 gallon cesspool/gully emptier machine. 1,046 cesspools were emptied, an increase of 159 over 1957. The new machine, being more efficient and having a greater capacity enabled the service to be reorganised and an overflowing cesspool is now a rare thing in the City. In addition the machine was used for 97 hours on street gully emptying and was hired out for 193 hours.

(5) **Public Conveniences.** There are seven ladies conveniences, seven mens conveniences and four urinals in the City area. These are cleansed by three full time and three part time attendants. Until this year it has been the practice to open the ladies' conveniences at eight o'clock in the morning, but in early summer it was realised that early visitors would have to be catered for and the conveniences remained open all night. Surprisingly, wilful damage did not increase. It was decided that winter staffs should be reduced and whilst it was appreciated that the standard of cleanliness, for which the City is known, would slightly fall it was considered that savings must be made. The convenience to be built at the Moorfield should be in use by the middle of the summer season 1959 and this will fill a long felt need. In a report which was made to the Council in 1956 on the City's conveniences and its further needs it was suggested that provision for a convenience in the lower Pydar Street area should be made in redevelopment

plans as the redevelopment of this area will accentuate the need which already exists. The new cattle market requires adequate conveniences and it is believed that these will be provided in 1959. The pollution of the river from the Worth Quay public conveniences during the summer months continues and this problem should receive attention.

VERMIN INFESTATION CONTROL

(1) **Rodents.** During the year 571 visits were made by the rodent operative to 78 properties found to be infested by rats and mice. In addition 127 inspections were made by your inspectors at infested premises. 55 sewer manholes were tested and small infestations found. These were treated by placing permanent points on the benching of the manholes using warfarin and a bait preservative. Takes were good. It is impossible to treat by orthodox means manholes in the City centre because of tidal flooding but during the year an experiment was carried out by placing bait and poison in muslin bags and suspending the bags in the flooded manholes. The results showed that rats did not feed in the flooded manholes but did feed on the fringes of the flooded area.

Rodent and pest control work continued at the premises of the Hospital Board in the City area and twenty-five treatments were given.

(2) **Insect Pests.** Six flea infestations and two ant infestations were treated. Assistance was given in the destruction of 9 wasps nests. No infestations of bed bugs were found.

FACTORIES

92 inspections of factories were made, 28 defects found and 34 defects remedied. Work continued to ensure that factories had adequate means of escape from fire. The improper storage of small quantities of petroleum derivatives used in many of the smaller factories gives rise to high fire risks unrecognised by the management. In the past two years ten certificates as to escape have been issued by the Council. Although more inspections of factories have been made in the past two years than previously not all factories have been visited yet and routine inspections at the present time seem very much in the distance.

1. Inspections

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	Inspec. tions (4)	No. of Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
1. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	18	6	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2	96	81	5	—	2
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	5	5	—	—	3
TOTAL		119	92	5	—	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred to H.M. Inspector		No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted		M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	H.M. Inspector	H.M. Inspector			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	6	7	—	1	—		4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—		5
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3)	6	2	2	—	1	—		6
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—		7
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—		8
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)								
(a) Insufficient	9	6	6	—	—	—		9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	7	7	—	1	—		10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—		11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	7	12	—	1	—		12
TOTAL		28	34	—	4	—		

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

306 inspections of drainage systems were made. The contract for the Highertown sewerage scheme, involving 61 premises, was made during the year and it is expected that work will start early in 1959. One third of the present emptyings of cesspools take place in the Highertown area and the majority of the cesspools are a nuisance and danger to health.

Acting on the Consulting Engineer's report of the sewerage system in the City the Public Health Committee decided to carry out the relaying of the Falmouth Road sewer and to spend monies on investigation and preliminary work connected with other unsatisfactory parts of the system which were noted in my report of last year.

HOUSING

(1) **Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses.** At the beginning of the year there were over fifty families awaiting rehousing from unfit houses consequent of action by the Public Health Committee in 1956/7. It was considered advisable to catch up with rehousing before embarking on further condemnation and it was not until October that inspections began on a further 57 houses.

Progress Report 1st April 1956—31st December, 1958

Clearance Areas

Number of houses dealt with	...	...	...	...	82
Houses purchased by agreement or already Corporate property	...				57
Houses still under negotiation to purchase			...	...	18
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	29
Houses awaiting demolition	...	...	...	...	53
Families rehoused	...	...	...	...	44
Families awaiting rehousing	...	...	...	...	19
Houses from which rehousing not necessary			...	...	19

Individual Unfit Houses

Number of houses dealt with	...	...	...	...	36
Families rehoused	...	...	...	...	25
Families awaiting rehousing	...	...	...	...	6
Houses from which rehousing not necessary			...	...	5

Of the 57 houses purchased by the end of the year, the sites of 28 will be used for housing purposes, the sites of 22 are in future redevelopment areas, the sites of 2 have been used for market purposes and the future of 5 sites is not known yet.

The Housing Committee decided that the Carlyon Cottages Almshouses, now owned by the Council, should be demolished and eleven flats are to be built on the site.

Many Corporate properties have outlived their useful life and have reached a state where it is not economical to modernise or carry out very extensive repairs or renewals. It will be necessary at some time in the future to consider in what order these houses should be put out of use.

(2) **Rehousing.** Forty Council houses and twelve houses built by private enterprise were completed during the year. 30 families were rehoused from unfit houses, 32 families were housed from the general waiting lists and 42 families already in Council accommodation were transferred to better suited accommodation. Whilst the House Lettings Sub-Committee followed their scheme of lettings introduced in June 1957 the Government's financial policy forced the Committee to use all new accommodation, directly or indirectly, for families from unfit houses, so that the higher rate of subsidy could be claimed. This meant that casual vacancies in existing properties only were available to general waiting list applicants.

The general waiting lists have remained steady at approximately three hundred and fifty applicants. One hundred and fifty three Council houses were inspected and three hundred and thirty eight visits were made relating to rehousing.

The House Lettings Sub-Committee by careful transfers have eradicated most of the overcrowding amongst families who could afford the increased rents of larger houses but a hard core of cases who can only afford the pre-war cheap rented houses are left. There are fourteen such cases at Trelander Estate alone.

Each year more and more elderly persons are met with in unfit houses and for this reason the City Council, when planning their building programme for 1959 decided to build twenty seven one bedroom flats in the City centre for such people. Thirty-four houses at Malabar are now under construction and forty more are planned on this estate for 1959. All these new properties, either directly or indirectly, are to be used for rehousing families or elderly people from unfit houses.

(3) **Rent Act 1957.** Twenty-one applications for disrepair certificates were made during the year. All were made by the end of April and since then there has not been an application. Six certificates were issued, thirteen undertakings were accepted, one application was refused and one withdrawn.

The cases of elderly persons, particularly widows, owning one or two houses which are in a state of disrepair but certainly far from completely unfit are rather sad. Bought with life savings in the hope of supplementing pensions they are now faced with disrepair certificates obtained by the tenants and have not the capital to properly repair the houses; they cannot increase the rent to the maximum allowed; they are unable to sell with sitting tenants, and are forced to allow houses to gradually deteriorate until they become too costly for anyone to save. Only the local authority, in these cases, can save such houses, by taking them over at a fair market figure.

(4) **General.** That the standard of fitness under the present Housing Act is too low is agreed and deplored by health workers throughout the country. The lowest standard of housing in the City should be comparable to the standard of a modern Council house i.e. there should be a proper hot water supply, an internal water closet, fixed bath and wash basin. But houses in the City not likely to be included in any clearance scheme still have no internal water supply, sink, separate water closet or flushing apparatus to the closet. It is hoped that during 1959 a start can be made on this problem.

During the year the Trustees of the Williams Cottages Almshouses in Pydar Street decided to go ahead with the improvement of the cottages to give modern conditions. At the present time the occupants of the seventeen rooms share one water tap and three closets and the new plans envisage fewer sets of rooms, internal water closets, kitchens, bathrooms and larders.

WATER SUPPLIES

The bacteriological quality of the water supplied by the Truro Water Company was satisfactory. Fifty-four samples of public supplies were taken by your inspectors and thirty samples by the Company. Five samples of private supplies were taken and all proved to be unsatisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH

(1) **Mass Radiography.** Arrangements were made during the year for over 800 persons to attend the radiography unit which visited the City. Invitations were confined to persons working in shops, offices and factories.

(2) **Camp Sites.** Conditions at Kenwyn Caravan Site where there are approximately 70 caravans and other dwellings, mostly in

residential use, continue to improve. During the year the problem of refuse receptacles and their collection was dealt with and at the end of the year discussions between the owner and your Inspectors on the drainage of sullage water throughout the site were taking place.

(3) **Bathing Waters.** Samples of water taken from the Truro River at places used for bathing showed gross pollution by sewage.

INSPECTIONS MADE

Dwelling houses inspected	495	Food Premises inspected	294
Council houses inspected	153	Factories and outworkers	
Visits re rehousing	338	premises inspected	92
Visits to Clearance Areas	20	Visits re nuisances	109
Dangerous walls and		Cinemas etc. inspected	4
buildings inspected	10	Camp Sites and Moveable	
Visits re Public Cleansing	208	Dwellings inspected	42
Public Conveniences inspected	49	Hackney Carriages Inspected	50
Visits re drainage work	306	Streams and Leats inspected	7
Miscellaneous visits	57	Unsuitable Refuse	
Visits re rodent and pest		Containers inspected	487
control	138		

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Housing		Food Premises	
Houses disinfested	6	Wash basins or sinks	
Roofs repaired	39	provided	18
Plaster repaired	17	Hot water supply provided	15
Gutters and fallpipes repaired	14	Cold water supply provided	13
Doors and windows repaired	53	Walls, floors and ceilings	
Firegrates and flues repaired	8	repaired	41
Dampness abated	10	Premises cleansed	6
Walls repaired	39	Fittings repaired or renewed	3
Floors repaired	22	First Aid Kits provided	3
Dirty houses cleansed and		New buildings provided	5
rooms redecorated	51	Water closets provided	12
Accumulations removed	1	Drainage system provided	3
Dustbins provided	208	Other defects repaired	81
Closets repaired or rebuilt	13	Factories	
Choked drains cleared	15	New closets provided	9
Drains repaired	7	Other defects repaired	20
Cesspools reconstructed	2		
Nuisances abated	15		
Sinks provided	9		
Houses demolished	12		
Other defects repaired	22		

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